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09/920,170	08/01/2001	Yasushi Fujinami	450100-03402	5295

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EXAMINER

VAN HANDEL, MICHAEL P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2623

DATE MAILED: 06/15/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 2/16/2006 has been entered.

Response to Amendment

1. This action is responsive to an Amendment filed 2/16/2006. Claims **1-16** are pending. Claims **1, 10-12** are amended.

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 2/16/2006 with respect to claims **1, 10-12** have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Regarding claims **1, 10-12**, the applicant argues that Hill does not disclose varying a predetermined range of forward and backward screens from a noticed screen based on whether an image processing apparatus is in a normal speed mode, a high speed mode, or a pause mode. The examiner respectfully disagrees. Hill discloses a buffer manager 118 with a request threshold that represents the optimum number of frames stored in the buffer at any given time (col. 6, l. 63-65). The buffer manager 118 compares the fill level of the buffer with this request

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threshold to determine when to request new frames and how many new frames to request (col. 7, l. 11-18). When the user changes to a different rate of play, the range of the request threshold is altered accordingly (for double speed, the request threshold moves twice as far into the future)(col. 8, l. 10-13). Thus, Hill effectively meets the limitation “the predetermined range being set based on an operation mode being one of a normal speed mode, a high speed mode higher than the normal speed mode, or a pause mode.”

NOTE: The USPTO considers the applicant's "one of" language to be anticipated by any reference containing any of the subsequent corresponding elements.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims **1, 3-8, 10-12** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hill.

Referring to claim **1**, Hill discloses an image processing apparatus 102 (digital network environment)(col. 3, l. 27-28)(Fig. 1), comprising:

- a reception section 104 (workstation)(col. 3, l. 28-32)(Fig. 1) for receiving image data transmitted thereto from a transmission apparatus 122 (source)(col. 3, l. 49-56)(Fig. 1) through a predetermined transmission line 126, 128 (audio track and video track)(col. 4, l. 44-45)(Fig. 1)

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- a storage section (local digital memory) having a storage capacity for a plurality of screens or more for storing the image data received by said reception section (col. 4, l. 7-11);
- and a control section 114 (control unit) for issuing a request for image data of screens within a predetermined range forward and backward (col. 11, l. 23-28) with reference to a noticed screen (col. 5, l. 9-15, 23-43, 48-67)(col. 6, l. 1-10, 13-16)(col. 7, l. 45-50)(col. 8, l. 1-3, 10-17) to said transmission apparatus and controlling a display apparatus to display the image data stored in said storage section (col. 3, l. 32-36, 65-67)(col. 4, l. 1-6), the predetermined range being set based on an operation mode being one of a normal speed mode (the examiner notes that a request threshold is set for normal play)(col. 6, l. 58-67; col. 7, l. 33-38; & Fig. 5A), a high speed mode higher than the normal speed mode (the examiner notes that in high speed mode at double speed, the request threshold moves twice as far into the future as in normal play)(col. 8, l. 1-3, 10-13 & Fig. 5B), or a pause mode (Hill describes stopping play, wherein the buffer manager ensures that the optimum number of future and history frames are stored and the control unit is notified of the frame currently being displayed. Therefore, the examiner interprets the stop functionality of Hill to be equivalent to the conventional pause functionality)(col. 11, l. 37-54).

NOTE: The USPTO considers the applicant's "one of" language to be anticipated by any reference containing any of the subsequent corresponding elements.

Referring to claim 3, Hill discloses an image processing apparatus 102 according to claim 1, wherein said control section 114 requests said transmission apparatus 122 for those of the image data of the screens within the predetermined range which are not stored in said storage section (col. 5, l. 23-34, 48-51)(col. 8, l. 10-17)(col. 10, l. 26-36)(Figs. 1, 3, 5B, 5D).

Referring to claim 4, Hill discloses an image processing apparatus 102 according to claim 3, further comprising a management information storage section 114, 118 for storing, for each screen, management information of whether or not the image data of the screen are stored in said storage section (col. 5, l. 66-67)(col. 6, l. 1-4), and wherein said control section 114 recognizes, based on the management information, those of the image data of the screens within the predetermined range which are not stored in said storage section (col. 10, l. 26-36)(Figs. 1, 5D).

Referring to claim 5, Hill discloses an image processing apparatus 102 according to claim 1, wherein said control section 114 requests said transmission apparatus 122 for the image data of the screens within the predetermined range in accordance with a predetermined priority order (col. 9, l. 45-65).

Referring to claim 6, Hill discloses an image processing apparatus 102 according to claim 5, further comprising an inputting section 124 (col. 3, l. 29-36)(Fig. 1) for inputting an instruction of a playback method of the image data, and wherein said control section 114 sets the predetermined range in accordance with the playback method of the image data (col. 3, l. 57-62)(col. 10, l. 14-19, 26-36)(Figs. 1, 5C, 5D).

Referring to claim 7, Hill discloses an image processing apparatus 102 according to claim 1, wherein said control section 114 requests said transmission apparatus 122 for image data of a predetermined plurality of screens within the predetermined range (col. 10, l. 26-36)(Figs. 1, 5D).

Referring to claim **8**, Hill discloses an image processing apparatus 102 according to claim 7, further comprising an inputting section 124 for inputting an instruction of a playback method of the image data, and wherein said control section sets a predetermined plurality of screens within the predetermined range in accordance with the playback method of the image data (col. 10, l. 26-36)(Figs. 1, 5D).

Referring to claims **10** and **11**, the examiner notes that the claims are the same, except that claim 11 refers to a recording medium on which a program executed by a computer is recorded. The examiner notes that this recording medium is the control unit 114, since it is responsible for the overall control of the system (col. 3, l. 57-58). Hill discloses an image processing method, comprising:

- a reception step 204 of receiving image data transmitted thereto from a transmission apparatus 122 through a predetermined transmission line 126, 128 (col. 4, l. 57-67) (Figs. 1, 2);
- a request step 208, 210 of requesting said transmission apparatus 122 for image data of screens within a predetermined range forward and backward (col. 11, l. 23-28) with reference to a noticed screen (col. 5, l. 4-12)(Figs. 1, 2), the predetermined range being set based on an operation mode being one of a normal speed mode, a high speed mode higher than the normal speed mode, or a pause mode (see relevant citations and examiner notes with respect to claim 1 above);
- an image storage step of storing the image data of the screens within the predetermined range received by the reception step (col. 5, l. 12-15)(Figs. 1, 2);

- and a display control step 214, 204 of controlling a display apparatus to display the stored image data (col. 5, l. 16-21)(Figs. 1, 2).

Referring to claim **12**, Hill discloses an image processing apparatus 102, comprising:

- a transmission apparatus 122 for playing back image data and transmitting the image data through a predetermined transmission line 126, 128 (col. 3, l. 48-56)(col. 4, l. 35-38)(Fig. 1); and
- a reception apparatus 104 for receiving the image data transmitted thereto from said transmission apparatus 122 through said transmission line 126, 128 (col. 3, l. 28-29)(col. 4, l. 35-37)(Fig. 1);
- said transmission apparatus 122 including a playback section playing back image data in response to a request from said reception apparatus (col. 5, l. 23-30)(Figs. 1, 3) and a transmission section for transmitting the played back image data to said reception apparatus through said predetermined transmission line (the examiner notes that a transmission section is necessary for transmission and is therefore inherent to the transmission apparatus 122)
- said reception apparatus 104 including a reception section for receiving the image data transmitted thereto from said transmission apparatus 122 through said predetermined transmission line 126, 128 (col. 3, l. 28-32)(Fig. 1), a storage section (local digital memory) having a storage capacity for a plurality of screens or more for storing the image data received by said reception section (col. 4, l. 7-11), and a display control section 114 (control unit) for issuing a request for image data of screens within a predetermined range forward and backward (col. 11, l. 23-28) with

reference to a noticed screen (col. 5, l. 9-15, 23-43, 48-67)(col. 6, l. 1-10, 13-16)(col. 7, l. 45-50)(col. 8, l. 1-3, 10-17) to said transmission apparatus and controlling a display apparatus to display the image data stored in said storage section (col. 3, l. 32-36, 65-67)(col. 4, l. 1-6), the predetermined range being set based on an operation mode of being one of a normal speed mode, a high speed mode higher than the normal speed mode, or a pause mode (see relevant citations and examiner notes with respect to claim 1 above).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hill in view of Galensky et al.

Referring to claim 2, Hill discloses an image processing apparatus 102. Hill does not disclose an image processing apparatus with a transmission line that transmits the image data at a transfer rate higher than the lowest transfer rate necessary to play back the image data normally. Galensky et al. discloses a wireless multimedia player wherein data is transmitted over a wireless network 40 at the highest data rate possible over the wireless network at the point in time when the data stream is initiated to permit a microprocessor 82 of the device 80 to create a buffer (Figs. 1, 2)(col. 6, l. 1-10). It would have been obvious to anyone of ordinary

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skill in the art at the time that the invention was made to modify Hill to include a transmission line in which data is transferred at the highest data rate such as that taught by Galensky et al. in order to create a buffer for streaming media.

5. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hill in view of Watkins et al.

Referring to claim 9, Hill discloses an image processing apparatus 102. Hill does not disclose an image processing apparatus with a transmission line that complies with the IEEE 1394 standard. Watkins et al. discloses a multimedia terminal 602, 608 connected to a server via a high bandwidth channel 604 (col. 11, l. 45-58)(Fig. 6). Watkins et al. discloses that this channel could be IEEE 1394 (col. 12, l. 1-3). It would have been obvious to anyone of ordinary skill in the art at the time that the invention was made to modify Hill to include an IEEE 1394 transmission line such as that taught by Watkins et al. in order to allow for transfer of movie clips over a network channel having a capacity for more than 10 Mb/s (col. 11, l. 66-67).

6. Claims 13-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hill.

Referring to claims 13-16, Hill discloses an image processing apparatus according to claims 1, 10-12, respectively. Hill further discloses that the initial request may vary in size (col. 11, l. 26). Hill does not disclose that the predetermined range is 2 minutes forward and backward of the noticed screen. The examiner takes Official Notice that it is well known within the prior art to vary the number of image frames stored in a buffer. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time that the invention was made to modify the number of image frames stored in the buffer of Hill in order to allow for smooth media playback.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Van Handel whose telephone number is 571.272.5968.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:00am-5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chris Grant can be reached on 571.272.7294. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.


Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Note to Applicant

Art Units 2611, 2614 and 2617 have changed to 2623. Please make all future correspondence indicate the new designation 2623.

Michael Van Handel
Examiner
Art Unit 2623

MVH


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